



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**APR 16 2008**

MR. J. DAVID ROBERTS  
VICE PRESIDENT  
NORCOLD, INC.  
600 S KUTHER ROAD  
SIDNEY, OH 45365

NVS-215kjs  
08E-030

**SUBJECT: REFRIGERATOR/POSSIBLE FIRE**

**DEAR MR. ROBERTS:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Norcold, Inc.'s (Norcold) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect for the products listed below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

NORCOLD/1200LR/9999

NORCOLD/1200LRIM/9999

NORCOLD/1201LRIM/9999

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08E-030

**Mfg's Report Date:** March 25, 2008

**Components:** EQUIPMENT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** To Be Determined

**Summary:**

NORCOLD HAS REPORTED A SAFETY RELATED DEFECT IN CERTAIN REFRIGERATORS, MODELS 1200LR, 1200LRIM, AND 1201LRIM, MANUFACTURED FROM MARCH 1, 1999 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2001, WITH COOLING UNITS SERIAL NUMBERS BETWEEN 1008701 AND 1273700. THE UNITS WERE INSTALLED AS ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT IN VARIOUS RECREATIONAL VEHICLES. A FATIGUE FAILURE IN THE SECTION OF THE COOLING UNIT WHICH CONTAINS THE REFRIGERANT COULD ALLOW THE LIQUID SOLUTION TO SLOWLY LEAK. IF A LEAK OCCURS AND THE REFRIGERATOR CONTINUES TO BE OPERATED AFTER SOLUTION CIRCULATION HAS CEASED, THE HEAT SOURCE COULD GENERATE VERY HIGH TEMPERATURES. AT SUCH HIGH TEMPERATURES, THE STEEL MATERIAL OF THE COOLING UNIT COULD SOFTEN AND RUPTURE. NORCOLD IS

WORKING TO IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF REFRIGERATORS THAT WERE MANUFACTURED WITH THIS CONDITION.

**Consequence:**

IF REFRIGERANT GAS IS STILL IN PLACE WHEN THE RUPTURE OCCURS, HYDROGEN GAS MAY BE EXPELLED AND COULD BE IGNITED BY THE HIGH TEMPERATURE, POSSIBLY CAUSING A FIRE.

**Remedy:**

NORCOLD IS WORKING WITH THE RV MANUFACTURERS TO NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPAIR THE COOLING UNITS FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAY OF 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT NORCOLD AT 800-767-9101.

**Notes:**

THIS RECALL IS AN EXPANSION OF 02E-045. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

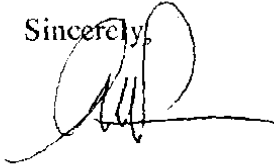
As per our telephone conversation on April 4, 2008, please provide a list of the vehicle manufacturers which purchased the subject refrigerators by company name and address, telephone and fax numbers, a contact name and title of a knowledgeable representative, and the quantity of cooling units sold to each company.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, posters, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. The first quarterly report will be due in this office on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement